

Sleigh Runner

Condensed from the Oral History of Elwin Barnes

Not many of them remember what they called the Sleigh Runner up on the peak up above Alpine. When the snow was gone out of there we were out of water. Sometimes it would run out in the middle of July and then we had no irrigation water.

Yes, (The Sleigh Runner kept track about how much water we had.) it was a gully. It was the shape of a sleigh runner and the snow would drift in there and fill it up.

There was a drought in those years. The 1930's were a terrible drought. Back in the Midwest they called it the dust bowl. They raised nothing back in there, and the wind blew. In fact they started to do something about it by plowing and planting. I don't remember how that worked out really. (When they were going through the dust bowl that's when we had our drought here as well.)

(You are the first one to tell us about the Sleigh Runner. You old timers and your dad told you all about the Sleigh Runner. If there wasn't any water up on the mountain there wouldn't be any water down here for irrigation.)